2014 Annual AMRI Mardi Gras Review

The Annual AMRI Mardi Gras Review was held February 27, 2014 at the UNO Lindy C. Boggs International Conference Center.

AMRI research programs, including the current LASIGMA project and the Summer Outreach Program, were presented. AMRI industrial collaborators Scott Yano, Lakeshore Cryotronics, and Timothy Langan, Surface Treatment Technologies, also gave presentations. Following the Review, 21 research posters of AMRI graduate students were put on display for the 60 attendants.

Many thanks to all involved for making this year’s Annual AMRI Mardi Gras Review a success!

THE DIRECTOR’S CORNER

I am pleased to announce the upcoming Outreach Summer Research Program. This year’s program will be held May 22 through July 25, 2014. We have received 40 undergraduate, 18 high school and 15 high school teacher applications. We are grateful for the programs which are providing support for this program, including the NSF-REU program, the LA-BoR LA-SiGMA program, and the Louisiana Board of Regents, and look forward to a successful and productive summer.

- Leonard Spinu
InnovateUNO Awards and UL Academic Summit

Congratulations are in order to two AMRI undergraduate students who placed at the InnovateUNO 2014 poster competition. InnovateUNO is a competition open to UNO's undergraduate students engaged in projects that involve research, scholarly work, creative work, or service learning.

Nooraldeen Alkurd, who is sponsored by Dr. Weilie Zhou, placed 4th on his poster titled “Investigating the Surface Modification of In2O3 Nanocrystals for Enhanced Chemical Sensing.” Daniel Adams, who is sponsored by Dr. Leonard Spinu, placed 5th on his poster titled “Microwave Properties of Magnetic Nanowires Arrays.”

The winners represented UNO at the UL Academic Summit on April 11-12, 2014.

AMRI Sponsors Junior High Robotics Team

AMRI recently donated $300 to the Boyet Junior High Robotics Team, a group of 7th and 8th graders called the “Gearheads,” to sponsor their trip to San Diego, CA to attend the First Lego League North American Open Championship. This competition will be held in May 2014. The team already won the “Champion’s Award” at the LA Regional FLL Competition and are the only team selected from LA to attend.

AMRI Group Meetings

AMRI Group Meetings are held every Thursday at 3:30pm in SC 2049.

1st Thursday AMRI Students’ Seminar (Dr. Weilie Zhou in charge)
2nd Thursday LASIGMA Group (Dr. Leszek Malkinski in charge)
3rd Thursday AMRI’s Research Group Meeting (Dr. John Wiley in charge)
4th Thursday AMRI General Group (Dr. Leonard Spinu in charge)

All AMRI personnel are encouraged to attend.

New Faces

We welcome the following new additions to our AMRI staff:

Agathe Brudo, Alice Dall’Armellina, and Maxime Brault join AMRI from the University Institute of Technology of Poitiers in Poitiers, France. The chemistry students arrived on February 10 and will work in AMRI research labs as part of their undergraduate training until May 10, 2014.

Nicolas Vargas joins AMRI from the University of Santiago. He will be collaborating with Dr. Leonard Spinu on research related to the nanomagnetism field and efforts of the research group of Dr. Juliano Denardin until December 3, 2014. His visit is funded by the CEDENNA center, a multidisciplinary group center dedicated to the science of nanotechnology and a scholarship from CONicyt-Chile.

Kieu Tran, Edwin Gomez, Luis De Grau, Denny Lenormand, Manish Bhatt and Daniel Adams join AMRI as undergraduate student workers. Kieu and Edwin will work for Dr. Dhruva Chakravorty. Luis, Denny and Daniel will work for Dr. Leonard Spinu. Manish will work for Dr. Weilie Zhou.

Chemistry Department Spring BBQ and Poster Competition

The UNO Chemistry Department held their Spring Poster Competition and BBQ on Friday, March 28, 2014. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all who participated!

Senior Graduate Students (Advisors):
1. Marielle Soniat (Dr. Steve Rick)
2. tie - Donna Peralta (Dr. Matthew Tarr) and Darilush Montasserasadi (Dr. John Wiley)
3. Sara Wozny (Dr. Weilie Zhou)

Junior Graduate Students (Advisors):
1. Dustin Kountz (Dr. Matthew Tarr)
2. Sara Akbarian (Dr. John Wiley)
3. Treva Brown (Dr. John Wiley)

Undergraduate Students (Advisors):
1. Nooraldeen Alkurd (Dr. Weilie Zhou)
2. Alexander Lyons (Dr. Matthew Tarr)
3. Edwin Gomez (Dr. Dhruva Chakravorty)
IPMI Awards

Congratulations are in order to Taha Rostamzadeh and Dr. John Wiley who received the Gemini Industries Student Award and Student Advisor Awards ($5,000), respectively, from the International Precious Metals Institute (IPMI). The awards will allow Taha to continue his research on precious-metal-containing nanopeapods.

Recent Publications

“Iron Oxide Nanotubes Synthesized via Template-based Electrodeposition,” Jin-Hee Lim, Seong-Gi Min, Leszek Malkinski, and John B. Wiley* Nanoscale 2014, (accepted)


Recent Presentations


Grants


Other Achievements

Dr. John Wiley’s article, “Peapod-type Nanocomposites via the In Situ Growth of Au Nanoparticles within Preformed Hexaniobate Nanoscrolls,” was accepted in Angewandte Chemie International Edition, one of the top journals in chemistry. The editor chose this article as a “Hot Article”, artwork for this work was accepted for appearance on one of the journal’s covers, and an article appeared in the New Orleans Advocate highlighting the research: http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/home/8588322-172/tulane-study-identifies-promising-hiv (3rd story)